

# THE YOUNG MINISTER (CHARGE 4): TO BE A MAN OF GOD 1 TIMOTHY 06: 11–16

## *Introduction*

This is a straightforward charge to the minister of God. The minister is called the “*man of God*.” This is one of the great titles of the minister of God.

=> Moses was called “the man of God” (Deu. 33:1; Psa. 90, the title).

=> Eli was called a man of God (1 Sam.2: 27).

=> Samuel was called a man of God (1 Sam. 9:6).

A concordance will show how often the servants of God were called “*the man of God*.” What a dynamic challenge to the minister: to be a “man of God.” Four charges are given to the *man of God*.

- I. Flee the passion for wealth (v. 11).
- II. Pursue, follow after the things of God (v. 11).
- III. Fight the fight of faith and lay hold of eternal life (v. 12).
- IV. Keep this charge — keep this commandment (vv. 13-16).

## **I. 1 Timothy 06:11 *Flees the Passion for Wealth***

The man of God flees the passion for wealth. A person is to flee the love of money — run away from all that has just been covered in verses 9-10. Note a shocking fact — shocking because so many people love money and the things it can buy:

=> the man who loves money is not a *man of God*. The man of God is the person who flees the love of money. (See 1 Tim. 6:9-10.)

The man of God does not love the world nor seek after the things of the world. He flees from the love and passion of this world.

**Rom 12:2** *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

**2 Cor 6:17-18** *“Therefore come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.” “I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.”*

**1 John 2:15-16** *Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world — the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does — comes not from the Father but from the world.*

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## II. *1 Timothy 06:11 Seek the Things of God*

The man of God pursues, follows after the things of God. The word “pursue” (dioke) is strong. It means to run after; to run swiftly after; to hotly pursue; to seek eagerly and earnestly. It has the idea of aiming at and pursuing until something is gained: of never giving up until we have reached our goal. There are six things the man of God is to pursue.

1. The man of God pursues righteousness (dikiaosune). Righteousness means two things.

a. Righteousness means *being right* with God.

=> It is having a heart that is *right with God*, that has approached God exactly as He says: through His only Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

=> It is having a heart that has *allowed God* to recreate and remake it *in righteousness*: through the Lord Jesus Christ.

=> It is having a heart that has participated in the divine nature of God (2 Pet. 1:4).

*Mat 5:6* “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”

*Mat 5:20* “For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.”

*2 Cor 5:17* Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

*Eph 4:24* And to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

b. Righteousness means *doing right*, that is, living exactly as God says to live. Simply stated, a righteous person is a person who *lives right* — a person who does his duty both to God and to man. He lives doing what he should do. He lives a righteous life, walking righteously before God and man day by day. As a result, he is free from guilt and has a free conscience and a strong self-image. The man of God follows and runs after righteousness.

*1 Cor 15:34* Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God — I say this to your shame.

*Phil 1:11* Filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ — to the glory and praise of God.

2. The man of God pursues godliness (eusebeian). Godliness means to live in the reverence and awe of God; to be *so conscious* of God’s presence that one lives just as God would live if He were walking upon earth. It means to live seeking to be like God; to seek to possess the very character, nature and behaviour of God. The man

of God follows and runs after godliness. He seeks to gain a consciousness of God's presence — a consciousness so intense that he actually lives as God would live if He were on earth.

Note: godliness means to be *Christlike*. Godliness is *Christlikeness*: it is living upon earth just as Christ lived.

**2 Cor 3:18** *And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

**Eph 4:24** *And to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.*

**Col 3:2** *Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.*

**1 Tim 4:7** *Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly.*

**Titus 2:12-13** *It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.*

**2 Pet 3:11** *Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives.*

3. The man of God pursues faith (pistin). Faith means both to believe and to be faithful.

⇒ The man of God seeks faith: to learn to trust God more and more; to be a man of faith, a man of great faith and belief. He wants to believe, trust and depend upon God — to grow more and more in believing God.

⇒ The man of God seeks to be faithful: be faithful to God more and more. He wants to be loyal, obedient, and attached to God. He wants to please God in all that he does.

**1 Cor 4:2** *Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.*

**1 Th 2:4** *On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please men but God, who tests our hearts.*

**1 Tim 1:12** *I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service.*

4. The man of God pursues love (see *Love*, 1 Th. 3:12).

5. The man of God pursues endurance (hupomonen) (see *Endurance*, 2 Th. 1:4-5).

6. The man of God pursues gentleness (praupathian). Gentleness means to be tender, humble, mild, considerate, but strongly so. Gentleness has the strength to control and discipline, and it does so at the right time.

a. Gentleness has a *humble state of mind*. But this does not mean the person is weak, cowardly and bowing. The meek person simply loves people and loves peace;

therefore, he walks humbly among men regardless of their status and circumstance in life. Associating with the poor and lowly of this earth does not bother the gentle person. He desires to be a friend to all and to help all as much as possible.

- b. Gentleness has *a strong state of mind*. It looks at situations and wants justice and right to be done. It is not a weak mind that ignores and neglects evil and wrong-doing, abuse and suffering.

=> If someone is suffering, gentleness steps in and does what it can to help.

=> If evil is being done, gentleness does what it can to stop and correct it.

=> If evil is running rampant and indulging itself, gentleness actually strikes out in anger. However, note a crucial point: the anger is always at the right time and against the right thing.

- c. Gentleness has *strong self-control*. The gentle person controls his spirit and mind. He controls the lusts of his flesh (sinful nature). He does not give way to ill-temper, retaliation, passion, indulgence or license. The gentle person dies to himself, to what his flesh would like to do. and he does the right thing — exactly what God wants done.

In summary, the gentle person walks in a humble, tender but strong state of mind. He denies himself and gives utmost consideration to others. He shows a control and righteous anger against injustice and evil. A gentle man forgets self and lives for others because of what Christ has done for him.

=> God is gentle.

**Gal 5:22-23** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

=> Jesus Christ was gentle.

**Mat 11:29** *“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”*

=> Believers are to be gentle.

**Gal 6:1** *Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted.*

**Eph 4:1-3** *As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

**2 Tim 2:25** *Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth.*

**Titus 3:2** *To slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate and to show true humility toward all men.*

**James 1:21** *Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.*

**James 3:13** *Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show it by his good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.*

**1 Pet 3:4** *Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.*

### III. **1 Timothy 06:12** *The Good Fight of Faith*

The man of God must fight the good fight of faith and lay hold of eternal life. This is a picture of an athletic contest. The word fight (agonizou) means to agonize, struggle, battle, contend and fight for the prize. It is the idea of a *desperate effort and struggle*.

Note: the believer is in a desperate struggle for eternal life. Laying hold of the prize of eternal life is the struggle. Eternal life is the goal for which the man of God is fighting. Mathew Henry described it well:

*“Those who will get to heaven must fight their way there. There must be a conflict with corruption and temptations and... the power of darkness. Observe. It is a good fight, it is a good cause, and it will have a good [end and purpose]... Observe...*

*“Eternal life is the crown proposed to us, forever encouragement to war, and to fight...*

*“This we must lay hold on [eternal life], as those that are afraid of coming short of it and losing it. Lay hold, and take heed of losing your hold....*

*“We are called to the fight, and to lay hold on eternal life” (Mathew Henry's Commentary, Vol. 6, p. 830).*

*Kenneth Wuest says, “Paul exhorts Timothy to lay hold of eternal life, he does not imply that he does not possess it. Timothy was saved, and possessed eternal life as a gift of God. What Paul was desirous of was that Timothy experience more of what this eternal life is in his life” (The Pastoral Epistles. “Wuests Word Studies,” Vol. 2. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1952, p. 98).*

Note an extremely significant point: what the profession of a minister is. When a man commits his life to the ministry, he is professing...

- that he believes in eternal life — that eternal life is a reality.
- that he and all others who trust Christ shall live forever.

He professes the reality of eternal life before “many witnesses” — all who know him and come in contact with him.

The point is this: the man of God must live up to his profession. He must do exactly what he professes: fight the good fight of the faith and take hold of eternal life.

**Mat 10:22** *“All men will hate you because of me, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved.”*

**2 Tim 2:4** *No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs — he wants to please his commanding officer.*

**1 Cor 9:24-27** *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air. No, I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.*

**Gal 6:8** *The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction: the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*

**Heb 12:3-4** *Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.*

**Rev 3:11** *I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.*

#### **IV. 1 Timothy 06:13–16 Keep the Commandment**

The man of God must keep this commandment. What commandment? The commandment just covered in v. 11-12. Five reasons are given for keeping these commandments.

1. God has the power to quicken, to give life to everything. The phrase “gives life” (*zoogonountos*) means to quicken; to bring forth alive (Robertson). God is life; He possesses the very energy and power of life within Himself. Therefore, God actually has the power to inject and infuse *eternal life* into us. There is no greater reason for keeping the commandments of God. If we keep His commandments, He will quicken us to live forever; He will give us eternal life.
2. Christ has set the example of a good profession before us. When Christ stood before Pilate. He said:

**John 18:36-37** *Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place.” “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”*

The man of God is to make the very same profession that Christ made: Jesus Christ is King, the Supreme majesty of the universe, the “blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords” (v. 15). This is the second reason for keeping the commandments of God.

3. Christ is to come again and be exalted as King of kings and Lord of lords. The point is judgment. Every one of us must confront Christ: we will be called forth and be forced to stand face to face with Him. We will have to give an account of how well we kept His commandments.

=> “Keep [the commandment] with an eye to His second coming, when we must all give an account of the talents we have been entrusted with...

=> “The Lord Jesus Christ will appear; and it will be a glorious appearing... Ministers should have an eye to this appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ in all their administrations...

=> “Till his appearing, they [ministers] are to keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable” (Mathew Henry. Mathew Henry’s Commentary, Vol. 6, p. 831).

Jesus Christ shall return to earth and be exalted:

*1 Tim 6:15* Which God will bring about in his own time — God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

This is the third reason why we must keep the commandments of God.

4. Christ alone possesses immortality and dwells in the transcendent and unapproachable light of God’s glory. This is one of the magnificent doxologies of the Bible. Its message is powerful.

a. Christ alone has immortality: no person shall ever live forever apart from Jesus Christ.

*John 8:51* “I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.”

*John 11:26* “And whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

*2 Tim 1:10* But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

b. Christ alone dwells in the light which no man can approach unto, the glorious light of God’s presence. No person shall ever approach God or dwell in the light of God’s presence apart from Jesus Christ.

*John 14:6* Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

*1 Tim 2:5* For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

5. Christ alone has seen and can see the light of God’s presence and glory. No person shall ever be allowed to see the light of God’s presence and glory apart from Christ.

**Exo 33:20** *“But,” he said, “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.”*

**John 1:18** *No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.*

**John 5:37** *“And the Father who sent me has himself testified concerning me. You have never heard his voice nor seen his form.”*

**Col 1:15** *He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born over all creation.*

**1 Tim 1:17** *Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

**1 Tim 6:16** *Who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honour and might forever. Amen.*

Therefore, to God and Christ alone belong honour and might forever. Amen.

*“This whole passage is a magnificent embodiment of the attributes of the living God, supreme blessedness and almighty power, universal dominion, and unchangeable being, inscrutable majesty, radiant holiness, and glory inaccessible and unapproachable by his creatures, save through the mediation of his only begotten Son” (Pulpit Commentary, Vol. 21. p. 123). ■*